**SEED COLLECTION PROTOCOL FOR THE TEXAS LONGLEAF TASKFORCE**

Document Source- Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) Native Plant Materials Center (NPMC), Nacogdoches, Texas (with additions)

The following is the recommended protocol for collection of native seed in conjunction with the Texas Chapter of the Texas Longleaf Taskforce on understory restoration projects. If you volunteering for collecting seed for a particular project for the Taskforce please follow the collection protocol.

\*Note that number of plants to collect seed from and the number of seeds to collect is specifically dependent on the need, use of the seed, the status of the plant population and the site conditions. Please consult with the Collection Manager prior to any collection.

**Collection Protocol:**

* Ensure you are collecting on property that you have permission from the landowner to access.
* Make sure you can identify the species properly
* Make sure seeds are ripe and ready to be collected
* Bag seeds individually by species and site
* Use woven plastic, burlap or paper bags for seeds. Avoid plastic bags.
* \*Collect from as many plants of a single species as possible throughout the site. \*Collect from at least 30 plants in each site (population) or as many as possible if there are less than 30. \*Try to get at least 200 seeds/collection site.
* Complete collection form for each species, each site, and each date. If possible, collect a GPS coordinate from the collection site.
* Label bags with legible information listed below:

**Information to Record:**

* Collection date
* County name
* Name of collector
* Species collected
* Descriptive and precise location information (including GPS coordinates if possible)
* If possible, include as much information as possible found on the USDA-NRCS collection envelope.

**After Collection:**

* Notify area Collection Manager of what you collected so they may keep records of what has been collected.
* Dry seeds if necessary. Store paper bag in a dry, well-ventilated area. Storing the paper bag at room temperature until dry is sufficient for most collections. For large quantities or wet seeds, lay out on paper with as much ventilation as possible until dry. Do not store outside overnight since dew and condensation may occur. Once dry, give seeds to the designated Collection Manager as requested.

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